

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, ETEL, XM, BL

SUBJ: SATELLITE TELECONFERENCING FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

REF: STATE 293375

1. BOLIVIA HAS WHAT IS PROBABLY THE MOST ADVANCED EARTH SCIENCE SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM IN ALL OF SOUTH AMERICA. A NUMBER OF PROJECTS IN LAND USE, CENSUS, MINERAL PROSPECTING HAVE BEEN FINANCED BY AID, CIDA, ETC. A SYMPOSIUM ON USES OF SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY TITLED "INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON REMOTE SENSING APPLIED TO DEMOGRAPHY AND LAND USE" WAS HELD IN LA PAZ IN LATE NOVEMBER 1977. WE BELIEVE BOLIVIA HAS A GREAT NEED FOR SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY BEING A VERY POOR COUNTRY (LARGE COUNTRY RICH IN RESOURCES WITH SMALL POPULATION) AND, DUE LARGELY TO THE ABILITY AND DYNAMISM OF THE DIRECTOR OF BOLIVIA-ERTS PROGRAM DR. CARLOS BROCKMANN, HAS THE CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENTS IN THIS FIELD. ALTHOUGH SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS HAS NOT RECEIVED AS MUCH ATTENTION AS OTHER USES; THERE NONETHELESS HAS BEEN INTEREST EXPRESSED BY ENTEL, THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENCY, AND OTHERS.

2.ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL.

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A. YES, AFTER THE AID SPONSORED SATELLITE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM IN 1976.

B. TECHNICAL ABILITY AND INTEREST ARE PROBABLY GREATEST IN THE AREA OF MINING AND METALLURGY AND ALSO IN ENERGY ESPECIALLY HYDRO-CARBONS. ALSO AGRUCULTURAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS AND IN MEDICINE, ESPECIALLY NUCLEAR MEDICINE. IN AREA OF BASIC SCIENCE BOLIVIA HAS

CAPABLE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN COSMIC RAY RESEARCH AND SEISMOLOGY.

C. TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN ALL AREAS MENTIONED ABOVE AS WELL AS IN COMMUNICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE WHO SPEAK ENGLISH.

D. THE MAJOR AREAS WHERE USAID/BOLIVIA IS PRESENTLY FINANCING THE LONG-TERM CONTRACT SERVICES OF U.S. THIRD COUNTRY AND BOLIVIAN NATIONALS ARE AS FOLLOWS: ENGINEERING - RURAL ELECTRIFICATION (13 PROFESSIONALS). PURPOSE: DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION SERVICES. EDUCATION - RURAL EDUCATION (14 PROFESSIONALS). PURPOSE: DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL EDUCATION SYSTEMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM OF NATIONAL RURAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. AGRUCULTURE - AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT - (29 PROFESSIONALS). PURPOSE: AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION, AGRICULTURAL CREDIT, COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT, COLONIZATION AND NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL PLANNING. NUTRUTION (4 PROFESSIONALS). PURPOSE: NATIONAL NUTRITION PLAN DEVELOPMENT. HEALTH - (4 PROFESSIOALS). PURPOSE: RURAL HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT. REGARDING THE NUMBER OF HOST COUNTRY EXPERTS, THE MISSION CAN NOT PROVIDE ANY ESTIMATION DUE TO LACK OF A RELIABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

E. TOPIC TO BE AVOIDED - POPULATION CONTROL, POLITICAL TOPICS, REFERENCE TO U.S. PRISONERS IN BOLIVIAN JAIL ON DRUG CHARGES, OUTLET TO THE SEA ISSUE, MINING TAXATION, ESPECIALLY AS RELATED TO TIN.
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F. MOST DESIRABLE TOPICS ARE THOSE LISTED IN B ABOVE BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT AREAS OF IMPORTANCE TO BOLIVIA AND OR AREAS OF SOME EXPERTISE. GOB HAS SHOWN CONCERN RECENTLY FOR INFORMATION POLICY AND SYSTEMS AND THEIR RELATION TO DEVELOPMENT BY CREATION OF SYFNID, AN ORGANIZATION CONCERNED WITH THESE VERY QUESTIONS.

G. NOT DURING JULY OR EARLY AUGUST IF POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

H. MARCH 1977: NATIONAL CONGRESS OF ENGINEERING.

I. MINISTRIES OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

J. TV STUDIO GEAR AND TV PROJECTION EQUIPMENT ARE AVAIL-
ABLE. THERE IS NO SATELLITE GROUND STATION BUT A MICROWAVE SYSTEM CONNECTS WITH PERU WHERE A GROUND SATELLITE STATION IS AVAILABLE.

K. WE BELIEVE GOB WOULD BE ENTHUSIASTIC TO CO-SPONSOR SUBJECT

DEMO, HOWEVER, DUE TO TIGHT BUDGETING ALREADY PROMOSSED BY
MINISTER OF FINANCE FOR 1978 ONLY SMALL AMOUNT OF FINANCING
COULD BE GLEANED FROM BOLIVIAN SOURCES.

L. MISSION BELIEVES SATELLITE TELECONFERENCING COULD BE USEFUL
MODE FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND THAT BOTH INTEREST AND POTENTIAL
FOR APPLICATION OF THIS TECHNIQUE EXISTS IN GOB ON A SIGNIFICANT
SCALE. PENDING FURTHER DETAIL ON AND CONSIDERATION OF THE
DEMONSTRATION PROPOSAL (PURPOSE, IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES,
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING STAFF TIME FOR MISSION/GOB,
TECHNIQUES FOR EVALUATION OF RESULTS, INTENTIONS WITH REGARDS
TO REPLICATION, ETC.) WE UNABLE TO COMMENT FURTHER ON POTEN-
TIAL COMMITMENT OF EMBASSY OR GOB.

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